

- The Plough, the Loom and Anvil. Vol. IV. No. 2. August, 1851. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From F. G. Skinner, Esq. Editor.*
- Report of the Twentieth Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Edinburgh, in July and August, 1850. London, 1851. 8vo.—*From the Association.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXII. No. 2. August, 1851. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- The African Repository. Vol. XXVII. No. 8. August, 1851. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society. Vol. V. No. 4. Newark, 1851. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

The minutes of the Board of Officers and Council of the Society, at their last meeting, were read.

The Society then proceeded to the nomination and election of a Treasurer, *pro tem.*, and Mr. Trego was nominated and elected.

Pending nominations, Nos. 256 to 261, and new nomination, No. 262, were read.

Stated Meeting, September 19.

Present, seventeen members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Etat Major of the Corps of Mining Engineers of Russia, dated St. Petersburg, 6th—18th of February, 1851; from Charles C. Rafn, Secretary of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, dated Copenhagen, June 4, 1851; from W. S. Derrick, Esq., Acting Secretary of State, dated Washington, 14th August, 1851; from Drs. A. A. Gould and D. H. Storer, acting in pursuance of the will of the late Dr. Amos Binney, all announcing donations to the Society's library: and—

From the Royal Society of London, dated Somerset House, June 25, 1851, acknowledging the receipt of No. 45 of the Proceedings of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Antiquarisk Tidsskrift, udgivet af det Kongelige Nordiske Oldskrift-Selskab. 1843—1848. 2 vols. Kiöbenhavn. 8vo.—*From the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen.*
- Abstract of the Report of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen, at the General Anniversary Meeting, 15th February, 1851. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Guide to Northern Archæology, by the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen. Edited for the use of English Readers by the Right Honourable, the Earl of Ellesmere. London, 1848. 8vo.—*From the Earl of Ellesmere.*
- Annales de l'Observatoire Physique Central de Russie: Publiées par ordre de sa Majesté l'Empereur Nicolas I. sous les auspices de M. le Comte Wrontchenko, Ministre des Finances, et Chef du Corps des Ingénieurs des Mines. Par A. T. Kupffer, Directeur de l'Observatoire Physique Central. Année, 1847. Nos. 1 & 2. St. Petersburg, 1850. 4to.—*From the Etat Major of the Corps of Mining Engineers of Russia.*
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, for the Year 1851. Part I. London, 1851. 4to.—*From the Society.*
- Proceedings of the Royal Society. Vol. VI. Nos. 77, 78. London, 1851. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London. Vol. XX. Part 2. London, 1851. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XI. No. 8. June 13, 1851. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- Executive Documents, 1st Session of 31st Congress, 1849-50. 11 vols.
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| Senate Journal, | „ | „ | 1 | „ |
| Senate Documents, | „ | „ | 1 to 10 & 13, 14. | |
| Do. Do. Miscellaneous, | „ | „ | 2 vols. | |
| Senate Reports, | „ | „ | 1 | „ |
| House Journal, | „ | „ | 1 | „ |
| Miscellaneous Documents, H. R. | „ | „ | 2 | „ |
| Reports of Committees, | „ | „ | 3 | „ |
- From the Department of State, Washington.*
- Plates to Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the Girard College, Philadelphia, 1840-45. 2d Session of 28th Congress, 1844-5. 1 vol. Washington. 8vo.—*From the same.*

- Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, from Jan. 1 to May 21, 1851. Boston. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. Vol. XII. No. 35. Sept. 1851. New Haven. 8vo.—*From Profs. Silliman and Dana, Editors.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. IX. No. 105. Sept. 1851. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*
- The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil. Vol. IV. No. 3. September, 1851. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From F. G. Skinner, Esq. Editor.*
- Deposition of Richard C. Taylor, respecting the Asphaltum Mine at Hillsborough, in the county of Albert and province of New Brunswick. Supreme Court, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Abraham Gesner vs. Halifax Gas Light Company. Philadelphia, 1851. 8vo.—*From Richard C. Taylor.*
- The Terrestrial Air-breathing Mollusks of the United States and the adjacent Territories of North America: described and illustrated by Amos Binney. Edited by Augustus A. Gould. Vols. 1, 2. Boston, 1851. 8vo.—*From Drs. A. A. Gould and D. H. Storer, in pursuance of the Will of the late Dr. Binney.*
- Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York. Vol. V. No. 3. May, 1851. New York. 8vo.—*From the Lyceum.*

Mr. Lea announced the death of James Fenimore Cooper, a member of this Society, who died at Cooperstown, N. Y., on the 14th of the present month, aged sixty-two.

Dr. F. Bache announced the death of Peter Pedersen, a member of this Society, who died at Copenhagen, August 16, 1851, nearly eighty years of age.

Mr. Peale, in the name of the Officers and Clerks of the U. S. Mint, presented to the Society a medal of Dr. Robert M. Patterson, on silver gilt, presented by them to Dr. Patterson, late Director of the Mint. Mr. Peale read the proceedings of the officers of the Mint on the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Patterson from the office, with his reply, and explained the character of the medal and the devices thereon.

Mr. Lea read the following correspondence between himself and Prof. Agassiz, in relation to the observations of Mr. Lea on the Anatomy of the Naiades, laid before the Society on the 21st of March last.

Cambridge, 26th July, 1851.

My Dear Sir,—I ought long ago to have answered your letter respecting the Naiades, but pressing engagements have made it an impossibility for me to attend to my correspondence for some time past. Moreover, I did not fully understand the drift of your claim, and conscious of duly appreciating the real value of your investigations in the history of that highly interesting group of mollusks, it did not occur to me that you could suspect me of even an accidental neglect of your observations. There cannot be a single naturalist at all conversant with that subject, who has not read and studied your numerous and highly valuable papers on the fresh water and land shells, as well as on the fossils. But I find from the proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, that there is such an apprehension on your part. Let me therefore say, what you might have already suspected, even from the very short abstract of my communication published in the proceedings of the Boston Natural History Society, that my object in investigating the structure of Naiades has been very different from yours. If you will await the publication of my paper, you will satisfy yourself that I know exactly who has first observed this or that fact respecting the organization of these animals, and that I give every body due credit for what he has done. But I have been testing the peculiarities of structure of the Naiades with the view of finding new characters for classifying, or rather dividing them into genera. Whether the facts alluded to were known or not, is a matter of no consequence in this point of view, though many of the points alluded to by me have not been noticed before, as you will perceive in reading my paper which is soon to appear; and if I use as *generic* characters, in dividing the Naiades into many genera, as you will find I do, peculiarities which have never been used as such, you will, no doubt, acknowledge that I have introduced new characters in the classification of these animals, and, as I believe, greatly improved their natural arrangement. You will, indeed, find that I use as *generic* characters, peculiarities which you have considered as having no other importance than that of affording additional facilities for the distinction of species; characters which, in your opinion, cannot even be employed as distinguishing natural groups, since even in your latest synopsis they are nowhere introduced as such. You will see moreover, that, whether I am right or wrong is another question, I have been led by the use of those very characters, in most instances, to separate from one another species which you have united as forming natural divisions, and to bring together species which you have

separated. As my arrangement now stands, it differs as much as can be from yours; but I should feel very happy if it meets your approbation when published, and if you are then as fully satisfied as you seem now to be, that there is no difference between the final result of your observations and mine.

As I am anxious that nobody should draw incorrect inferences from your communication to the Philosophical Society, I beg you will read this letter to that learned society, and if you have sent abroad separate copies of your notice, do me the favour to have as many copies of my letter struck off, and direct it also to your friends.

I trust this explanation will satisfy you that I am the last man willing to appropriate to himself the observations of others, and I remain, as before,

Your sincere friend,

L. AGASSIZ.

I. LEA, Esq., Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, July 29, 1851.

My Dear Sir,—I yesterday received your letter of 26th, and beg to assure you that I will read it to the Philosophical Society, as you request. Our next meeting takes place on the 15th of August, and if I am in town then, I shall not fail to read it. Will you permit me to say that I do not think you have entirely understood my communication to the Society? My object was simply to reclaim some discoveries made long since by me, which, in the report of the Boston Natural History Society, are given as the result of investigations recently made by you. I attributed this, of course, to inadvertence on your part, but it was nevertheless due to myself to claim what I consider to be the result of my own labours. What you say in your letter, regarding your own investigations and your intention to establish a new anatomical system of classification, different from that of my system, founded on the calcareous envelope of the animal, meets my hearty concurrence. When I understood, some time since, that you were making examinations for that purpose, I was rejoiced to find that you, who were so skilful and experienced in every branch of comparative anatomy, were giving your analytical powers to a group in natural history which had delighted me for so many years; but to which, unhappily, I could not give the time requisite to additional labour of minute dissection. In supposing that I could have any possible objection to your working in the same field, or your forming a different and more natural system, founded on the soft

parts of the animal, you have entirely misunderstood me. What I had done, many years since, in investigating the structure of the *Naiades*, induced me then to believe—and I have never since changed my opinion—that the best natural arrangement existed in the difference of structure of the oviducts.

Nothing could give me more pleasure than having co-labourers, able and masterly like yourself, in this most interesting subject. As I have intended, for some years past, to take advantage of my first leisure to publish an extensive monograph of our *Naiades*, all the light or assistance which I could acquire, from all zoologists, would be most desirable to me, and who, in comparative anatomy, could as well aid in such illustration as yourself, so distinguished in this wide field of research? Be assured that when your memoir on the structure and classification of this interesting group of mollusks shall be published, that I shall consider it as a great advance in this branch of zoology.

You will see, in what I have said above, that you have misunderstood me entirely in supposing that I could, for one moment, have the slightest objection to your making any arrangement or system that your great experience and good judgment might dictate. If you will look again at my reclamation, you will see that I simply desired to retain the credit of my published observations, which had been recently stated as new, in the report of the Boston Society of Natural History, inadvertently, I hoped, on your part. I claim nothing more whatever, and trust that you will continue your labours without intermission, until you shall have accomplished the memoir you are engaged in, and which you are so able to complete.

I repeat that I will read your letter to the American Philosophical Society, and at the same time I will explain what I have said above, expressing a hope that you will soon finish your examinations, and give to science the result. But I am sure, on reflection, you will excuse me from printing and distributing your letter, which relates to points on which we do not differ, scarcely touching the simple fact of the reclamation, which is all I contend for.

Hoping, my dear sir, that in all this you will concur with me,
I am very sincerely and truly yours,

ISAAC LEA.

Prof. L. AGASSIZ, Cambridge, Mass.

Pending nominations, Nos. 256 to 262, inclusive, were read.